CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of storing and retrieving a plurality of advance medical directives corresponding to a plurality of members, the method comprising the steps of:

providing for receiving a medical directive from a member;

providing for storing the medical directive in a memory, the memory capable of being searched;

providing for receiving a request for a medical directive from a user, the request comprising an identifier corresponding to one of the plurality of members;

providing for searching the memory for a medical directive corresponding to the identifier received from the user; and

providing for the availability of the corresponding medical directive to the user.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the identifier comprises one of either a name, an identification number, or a name and identification number.

3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing for a database, the database capable of storing information corresponding to one of the plurality of members.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing for electronically transmitting the corresponding medical directive to the user.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the medical directive is one of either a written document, a recorded sound, or a recorded audio-visual event.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing for transmitting a message to the user, the message comprising a notice indicating whether the member has a corresponding medical directive stored in the memory.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the identification number received from the user is the Social Security number of the member.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the name received from the user is the name of the member.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

    providing for assigning a unique identification number to the member.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the identification number received from the user is the unique identification number assigned to the member.

11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

    providing for receiving emergency contact information from the member; and

    providing for storing the emergency contact information in the memory.

12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

    providing for the availability to the user of emergency contact information corresponding to the member.

13. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

    providing for receiving a second medical directive from a member who has a first medical directive stored in the memory; and

    providing for storing the second medical directive in the memory.

14. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

    providing for notifying a member that a medical directive corresponding to the member has been stored in the memory for longer than a predetermined period of time.

15. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

    providing for allowing a member to regulate a user's access to a medical directive corresponding to the user.

16. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

    providing for requiring a member to transmit information identifying the member.

17. A system for storing and retrieving a plurality of advance medical directives corresponding to a plurality of members, the system comprising:

    a processor for executing an application; and

    a memory in communication with the processor, the memory capable of being searched;

    wherein the application comprises:

    a first code segment for receiving a medical directive from a member;

a second code segment for storing the medical directive in the memory;

a third code segment for receiving a request for a medical directive from a user, the request comprising an identifier corresponding to one of the plurality of members;

a fourth code segment for searching the memory for a medical directive corresponding to the search request received from the user; and

a fifth code segment for providing the corresponding medical directive to the user.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the identifier comprises one of either a name, an identification number, or a name and identification number.

19. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

a database, the database capable of storing information corresponding to one of the plurality of members.

20. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

a sixth code segment for electronically transmitting the corresponding medical directive to the user.

21. The system of Claim 17, wherein the medical directive is one of either a written document, a recorded sound, or a recorded audio-visual event.

22. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

a sixth code segment for transmitting a message to the user, the message comprising a notice indicating whether the member has a corresponding medical directive stored in the memory.

23. The system of Claim 17, wherein the identification number received from the user is the Social Security number of the member.

24. The system of Claim 17, wherein the name received from the user is the name of the member.

25. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

a sixth code segment for assigning a unique identification number to the member.

26. The system of Claim 25, wherein the identification number received from the user is the unique identification number assigned to the member.

27. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

a sixth code segment for receiving emergency contact information

from the member; and

a seventh code segment for storing the emergency contact information

in the memory.

28. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

a sixth code segment for providing to the user emergency contact

information corresponding to the member.

29. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

a sixth code segment for receiving a second medical directive from a

member who has a first medical directive stored in the memory;

and

a seventh code segment for storing the second medical directive in the

memory.

30. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

a sixth code segment for notifying a member that a medical directive

corresponding to the member has been stored in the memory

for longer than a predetermined period of time.

31. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

a sixth code segment for allowing a member to regulate a user's access

to a medical directive corresponding to the user.

32. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

a sixth code segment for requiring a member to transmit information

identifying the member.

33. A method of storing and providing an advance medical directive, the method

comprising the steps of:

providing a medical directive to be stored in a memory, the memory

capable of being searched with a search key;

providing identification data to a user to be associated with the stored

medical directive;

searching the memory for the medical directive, the search key being

the identification data provided to the user;

providing the corresponding medical directive to the user.

34. The method of Claim 33, wherein the identification data comprises one of either a name, an identification number, or a name and identification number.

35. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of:

    providing a database, the database capable of storing information corresponding to one of the plurality of members.

36. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of:

    electronically transmitting the corresponding medical directive to the user.

37. The method of Claim 33, wherein the medical directive is one of either a written document, a recorded sound, or a recorded audio-visual event.

38. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of:

    transmitting a message to the user, the message comprising a notice indicating whether the member has a corresponding medical directive stored in the memory.

39. The method of Claim 33, wherein the identification number provided to the user is the Social Security number of the member.

40. The method of Claim 33, where the name provided to the user is the name of the member.

41. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of:

    providing emergency contact information to be stored in the memory.

42. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of:

    providing emergency contact information to the member.

43. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of:

    providing for receiving a notification that a medical directive has been stored in the memory for longer than a predetermined period of time.

44. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of:

    regulating a user's access to a medical directive.

45. The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of:

    requiring a member to transmit information identifying the member.

46. A method of storing and retrieving a plurality of advance medical directives corresponding to a plurality of members, the method comprising the steps of:

    electronically receiving a medical directive from a member;

storing the medical directive in a memory, the memory capable of being searched with a search key;

providing identification data to a user, the identification data identifying a member and comprising one of either a name, an identification number or a name and identification number;

receiving a request for a medical directive corresponding to a member, the request comprising the identification data of the corresponding member;

searching the memory for a medical directive corresponding to the search request received from the user, the search key being the identification data provided to the user;

transmitting a message to the user, the message comprising a notice indicating whether or not the member has a corresponding medical directive stored in the memory; and

transmitting the medical directive to the user if a medical directive corresponding to the member is found in the memory.

47. The method of Claim 46, wherein the identification number received from the user is the Social Security number of the member.

48. The method of Claim 46, wherein the name received from the user is the name of the member.

49. The method of Claim 46, further comprising the step of:

providing for a database, the database capable of storing information corresponding to one of the plurality of members.

50. The method of Claim 46, wherein the medical directive is one of either a written document, a recorded sound, or a recorded audio-visual event.

51. The method of Claim 46, further comprising the step of:

assigning a unique identification number to the member.

52. The method of Claim 51, wherein the identification number received from the user is the unique identification number assigned to the member.

53. The method of Claim 46, further comprising the steps of:

receiving emergency contact information from the member; and

storing the emergency contact information in the memory.

54. The method of Claim 46, further comprising the step of:

transmitting to the user emergency contact information corresponding to the member.

55.   The method of Claim 46, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second medical directive from a member who has a first

5   medical directive stored in the memory; and

storing the second medical directive in the memory.

56.   The method of Claim 46, further comprising the step of:

notifying a member that a medical directive corresponding to the

member has been stored in the memory for longer than a

10   predetermined period of time.

57.   The method of Claim 46, further comprising the step of:

allowing a member to regulate a user's access to a medical directive

corresponding to the member.

58.   The method of Claim 46, further comprising the step of:

15   providing for requiring a member to transmit information identifying

the member.